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LETTER DATED 29 MARCH 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF PORTUGAL, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to forward herewith a joint statement of the observer countries to the Angolan peace process issued on 24 March 1995, following the meeting held in Lisbon.

We should be grateful if you could kindly arrange to have this statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Madeleine K. ALBRIGHT
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America
to the United Nations

(Signed) Sergey V. LAVROV
Permanent Representative
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Annex

Statement by the observer States to the Angolan peace process issued on 24 March 1995

The observer States to the Angolan peace process reviewed progress made in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol since it came into force more than four months ago. While the pace of implementation has been uneven, they noted that the cease-fire is generally holding and that positive movement in implementing the accords has been registered in the last few days.

The observer States affirm categorically that free access by United Nations personnel to all parts of Angolan territory is a prerequisite for the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) mandate to be successfully carried out. In this regard, they note with satisfaction that UNAVEM military and police observers are being deployed to all designated team sites. Complete cooperation with UNAVEM personnel is required from the Government and the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) and will continue to be the standard by which their compliance with the Protocol will be measured. In this sense, the observers register the readiness of the Government of Angola to make tangible contributions to the UNAVEM III peace-keeping operation and encourage UNITA also to make appropriate contributions. They look forward to the rapid conclusion of a status-of-forces agreement between the Government of Angola and the United Nations.

The observer States also note with satisfaction recent statements reaffirming both sides' full commitment to peace in Angola, as well as to the expeditious deployment of the peace-keeping force. They strongly encourage the Government and UNITA to accelerate preparations for a meeting between President José Eduardo dos Santos and Mr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, which would send a strong message to the Angolan people and the international community of their common commitment to peace and national reconciliation. They call upon both sides to continue to engage in confidence-building measures, especially through public statements.

The observer States are in complete agreement that rigorous adherence to the provisions of the Lusaka Protocol is essential to maintain momentum in the peace process. They note with concern the violations of certain aspects of the Lusaka Protocol. These violations fuel mistrust and could undermine what has been achieved to date. The Troika reaffirms that the present peace process represents and last best hope for Angola and its conviction that there cannot be any military solution for the Angolan conflict. Angola's leaders must recognize their responsibility not to lose this opportunity for peace.

The observers recall the necessity to provide conditions for the unobstructed delivery of humanitarian assistance throughout Angola and to cooperate fully in releasing all war-related detainees through the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as all captured foreign citizens or to provide information about their fate. They further recall the need to respect the integrity and safety of all international personnel, either public or private, operating throughout Angola.

The observer States to the Angolan peace process reaffirm their commitment to ensure that the Lusaka Protocol is implemented fairly and rigorously. They commend United Nations Special Representative, Mr. Blondin Beye's outstanding efforts in this regard. They also express the hope that sufficient funding and means, including aerial surveillance, will be available to enable UNAVEM to meet critical monitoring objectives as established in the Lusaka Protocol and relevant Security Council resolutions.

The observer States affirm that the full deployment of UNAVEM III peace-keepers is a key element of the peace process and would significantly increase prospects for the successful implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. They note that the deployment of the peace-keepers is linked to concrete actions taken by the Government and UNITA to permit the successful accomplishment of their mission. The observer Governments will be in close consultation with the Secretary-General regarding the decision on the deployment of infantry units to Angola.